

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
HA-05 SCS-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 EB-08 AID-05
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P 230915Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2291
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DARESSALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MOPS, SREF, RH, BC
SUBJECT: AMCIT PREXY NESBITT SLAMS USG POLICY ON MERCENARIES

1. BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS MAY 19 CARRIES FRONT-PAGE STORY OF
BOTSWANA VISIT OF AMCIT PREXY NESBITT WHO IS REFERRED TO AS
DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO OPPOSE BANK LOANS
TO SOUTH AFRICA AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF AMERICAN COMMITTEE
ON AFRICA. ACCORDING TO DAILY NEWS, NESBITT WAS SHARPLY CRI-
TICAL OF USG POLICIES WHICH DO NOT STOP RECRUITMENT OF AMER-
ICAN MERCENARIES BY RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES. HE ALLEGED
THAT AMCIT MERCENARIES MAY EVEN HAVE TAKEN PART IN LESOMA
AMBUSH WHERE 15 BDF SOLDIERS WERE KILLED. NESBITT REPORTEDLY
STATED THAT HIS ORGANIZATIONS ARE "PRESSING THE AMERICAN GOV-
ERNMENT TO END THE VICIOUS BUSINESS OF RECRUITING MERCENARIES
IN USA TO GO TO RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA".

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2. WITH REGARD TO U.S. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH
AFRICA, NESBITT REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HIS ORGANIZATIONS
URGE U.S. BUSINESS TO RELOCATE FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO BOT-
SWANA, SWAZILAND OR ZAMBIA. NESBITT REPORTEDLY SAID
THAT RECENT SAG ACTIONS IN BIKO CASE AND BANNINGS OF
ANTI-APARTHEID ORGANIZATIONS ARE BEGINNING TO CONVINCE

AMERICANS THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS "FACIST" REGIME. CONSEQUENTLY, AMERICAN CORPORATIONS, BANKS, RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND UNIVERSITIES HAVE BEGUN TO WITHDRAW THEIR INVESTMENTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA. NESBITT IS REPORTED TO HAVE SHARPLY CRITICIZED USG FOR "DOUBLE STANDARD" WHICH CONDEMNS APARTHEID WHILE REFUSING TO CUT ECONOMIC TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

3. NESBITT TOLD DAILY NEWS THAT HIS ORGANIZATIONS ARE READY TO GET INVOLVED IN MEETING NEEDS OF REFUGEES IN BOTSWANA. HE REPORTEDLY OFFERED "FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE", CLOTHING AND EDUCATION FOR REFUGEES AND VISITED SELEGI-PIKWE REFUGEE CAMP. ACCORDING TO DAILY NEWS, NESBITT CLAIMED THAT BOTH ORGANIZATIONS ARE VOLUNTARY AND "DO NOT WANT ANY ASSISTANCE FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT".

4. ACCORDING TO DAILY NEWS NESBITT MET WITH PRESIDENTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY CHARLES TIBONE, UNHCR REPS AND UBS FACULTY MEMBERS. TIBONE TOLD US THAT NESBITT'S PRIMARY PURPOSE IN REQUESTING APPOINTMENT APPEARED TO BE ARRANGING VISITS TO FRANCISTOWN AND SELEBI-PIKWE REFUGEE CAMPS. PERMISSION FOR VISITS WAS GRANTED, ALTHOUGH TIBONE WARNED NESBITT THAT CAMP ADMINISTRATORS MIGHT ALREADY BE OCCUPIED WITH STEADY STREAM OF OTHER VISITORS. ACCORDING TO TIBONE, NESBITT NOTED THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMERICAN COMMITTEE ON AFRICA HAD ALREADY MADE SOME CONTRIBUTIONS TO ZIMBABWEAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN REFUGEES, BUT HE COULD NOT MAKE ANY SIGNIFICANT NEW OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE. NESBITT DID NOT RAISE ISSUE OF AMCITS SERVING WITH RHODESIAN SECURITY FORCES DURING HIS MEETING WITH TIBONE. DAILY NEWS REPORTED THAT NESBITT IS ON "FACT-FINDING TOUR" OF FRONTLINE STATES SO THAT HE MAY WELL TURN UP IN LUSAKA, DAR OR MAPUTO IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: NESBITT PREDICTABLY HAS HAD NO CONTACT WITH EMBASSY NOR HAVE WE RECEIVED ANY INQUIRIES ABOUT HIM FROM GOB OR UNHCR. ISSUE OF AMERICAN MERCENARIES IN RHODESIA APPEARS IN BOTSWANA MEDIA FROM TIME TO TIME, BUT NESBITT'S COMMENTS ARE PARTICULARLY DAMAGING AND BIZARRE BECAUSE THEY COME FROM AN AMERICAN AND LINK AMERICAN MERCENARIES WITH EMOTION-LADEN LESOMA AMBUSH. WE BELIEVE NESBITT HAS POTENTIAL TO STIR UP MORE TROUBLE DURING HIS PLANNED TRAVEL TO OTHER FRONTLINE CAPITALS. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY INFORMATION WHICH MIGHT BE AVAILABLE TO DEPARTMENT ABOUT NESBITT OR THE ORGANIZATIONS HE PURPORTS TO REPRESENT.

RESENT.
ALBERTI

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